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HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT AND COMMISSIONING

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REFERENCE: HSSF-07-24

FISHERTON GATEWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER AMENDMENTS, SALISBURY

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - (i) Consider the comments received following the formal advertisement of the various Traffic Regulation Order (TRO hereafter) amendments in Salisbury.
 - (ii) Recommend proceeding with the introduction of the TRO amendments as advertised.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposal contributes to three of the themes set out in the Council's Business Plan 2022- 2032.

Theme 1: Empowered People

- Help the people of Wiltshire to increase activity levels and improve their health.

Theme 3: Thriving Economy

- Deliver infrastructure to enable local communities to live, work and play locally, businesses to invest and everyone to take responsibility for the environment.
- Help create and support vibrant town centres.
- Help build an efficient and effective transport network, including viable alternatives to the car.
- Maintain and improve the existing transport infrastructure.

Theme 4: Sustainable Environment

- Support decarbonisation of existing transport and increased use of public transport options as well as walking and cycling.

Background

3. Wiltshire Council has developed proposals for the Fisherton Gateway project which will deliver streetscape enhancements to Fisherton Street and South Western Road in Salisbury City Centre. The Fisherton Gateway project forms part of the Government's Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme, the aim of which is to renew and reshape city centres and high streets in a way that helps to drive economic growth, improve the user experience and ensure the future sustainability of city centres.
4. The route along South Western Road and Fisherton Street forms a strategic pedestrian gateway to Salisbury City Centre from Salisbury Railway Station (the forecourt at which is due to be subject to an enhancement scheme through the FHSF programme). The footways in South Western Road, and for much of the length of Fisherton Street, do not meet current design and accessibility standards. Therefore, the Council is seeking to address these issues by proposing to widen the footways along Fisherton Street and South Western Road, the introduction of raised traffic tables to control the speed of vehicles using Fisherton Street and the provision of pedestrian priority across the side roads off it.
5. In developing the Fisherton Gateway project the need to undertake various TRO amendments was identified to deliver the Council's proposals on the ground.
6. TROs for the various amendments were formally advertised for comment on 14 December 2023. The Council's closing date for receipt of objections or other representations to the advertised TROs, together with the grounds on which they were made, was 15 January 2024.

Summary of Proposals

7. TROs were required for the following:
 - Amendments to waiting restrictions in Dews Road, Fisherton Street and South Western Road;
 - The introduction of new traffic calming features in the form of raised tables in Dews Road, Fisherton Street, North Street and Summerlock Approach;
 - Amendments to the controlled zone of the Zebra crossing located at the junction of Fisherton Street and North Street;
 - Amendments to the Salisbury City Centre 20mph Zone boundary.
8. Plans showing the Council's advertised proposals are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Summary of Responses

9. During the consultation period a total of two items of correspondence were received in response to the Council's proposals, both of which objected to elements of the Council's proposals.
10. A summary of the correspondents who wrote in opposition to, or made general comment on, the Council's proposals is attached as **Appendix 2**. A full copy of the comments raised by objectors, together with officer responses, is attached as **Appendix 3**.
11. The proposals listed below are those consulted upon that were subject to the receipt of comments:

- The removal of the on-street parking bay in South Western Road between 8.00am and 7.00pm;
 - Amendments to the Salisbury City Centre 20mph speed limit boundary.
12. Substantive comments are comments that would result in the Council seeking to make changes to the proposals it advertised. It is considered that no substantive comments have been submitted by the correspondents who objected to the Council's proposals.

Main considerations for the Council

13. Consideration needs to be given to the comments received to the Council's advertised proposals and whether changes should be made to them. The Council must balance meeting its statutory obligations as the local highway authority and the delivery of its approved business plan, which commits the Council to improving the health, wellbeing and environment in which its residents reside, against the wishes of those who wrote in opposition to the Council's proposals.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

14. There is none required as part of this scheme.

Safeguarding Implications

15. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

16. The introduction of the proposed TROs would support the wider delivery of the Fisherton Gateway project. This project aims to provide improved pedestrian walking routes along Fisherton Street and South Western Road and control the speed of traffic travelling along Fisherton Street. Such measures would serve to encourage active travel, any increase in active travel because of the Council's proposals may help to improve public health.

Procurement Implications

17. There are no procurement implications.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

18. The introduction of the proposed TROs would support the wider delivery of the Fisherton Gateway project. This project aims to provide improved pedestrian walking routes along Fisherton Street and South Western Road and control the speed of traffic travelling along Fisherton Street. Such measures would serve to assist members of the public with mobility difficulties to travel along those roads more easily in accessing both Salisbury City Centre and Salisbury Railway Station.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

19. The introduction of the proposed TROs would support the wider delivery of the Fisherton Gateway project. This project aims to provide improved pedestrian walking routes along Fisherton Street and South Western Road and control the speed of traffic travelling along Fisherton Street. Such measures would serve to encourage active travel, any increase in active travel because of the Council's proposals may help to improve air quality in Salisbury City Centre.

Risk Assessment

20. Not proceeding with the Council's proposals would diminish the overall benefit of the Fisherton Gateway project and the contribute towards the Council failing to meet the objectives of its Business Plan 2022- 2032 as outlined in paragraph 2 above.

Financial Implications

21. There is an allocation within the overall FHSF scheme budget for the Fisherton Gateway project which allows for the introduction of the proposed TROs. Should these TROs not progress the funding would be returned to the overall scheme budget and would be put towards the delivery of the wider Fisherton Gateway project.

Legal Implications

22. Implementation of the Council's proposals requires the processing of TROs. The process of introducing TROs is governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and associated procedural regulations. Failure to adhere to the statutory processes could result in the TROs being successfully challenged in the High Court.

Options Considered

23. To:
- (i) Implement the proposals as advertised.
 - (ii) Amend the proposals in consideration of the comments received.
 - (iii) Abandon the proposals.

Reason for Proposal

24. Implementing the proposed TROs would support the delivery of the Fisherton Gateway project and contribute to improving Salisbury City Centre to help drive economic growth, improve the user experience and in so doing help to support the future sustainability of not only businesses operating in Fisherton Street and South Western Road but the wider city centre.
25. The proposals are in accordance with Themes 1, 2 and 4 in Wiltshire Council's Business Plan 2022-2032. The proposals also help to deliver aspirations contained within the Council's Salisbury Central Area Framework, Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan and Salisbury Transport Strategy.

Proposal

26. That:
- (i) The Council's proposals be introduced as advertised.
 - (ii) The correspondents who commented on the Council's proposals be informed accordingly.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None